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Trying out food at the new Cafeteria - Photo by Dr. Milton Samuels

## Vending Machines are the New Cafeteria

By **Janet Villafane**  
*Gazette Staff Reporter*

RCC students are expressing concern about the new cafeteria and what plans are in place to improve the current situation. Students who were here back in 2009 (when there was an actual cafeteria and not just vending machines) questioned what happened with the cafeteria.

I interviewed Dr. Alane Shanks, Vice President of Administration and Finance, who mentioned the reasons why the cafeteria was no longer standing. One reason was due to the fact that the cafeteria was not being used frequently. Another was that the cafeteria could not be run under fewer than four people, which could not be afforded by most vendors. The space was then given to the Census Bureau who had a contract with the school for 12-18 months.

During that time, vendors from AK's were hired. The cafeteria was moved

to the Academic Building because the smaller space was more convenient, unlike the cafeteria that was too spacious for few staff. The vendors from AK's expressed that only one staff could be afforded but it turned out to be necessary for two staff people to be present for the work, and so they left in December of 2010.

Shanks also stated that students reported they wanted the cafeteria to go back to the Academic Building with the possibility that a cafeteria would take the place. Dr. Shanks got a hold of two vendors who responded back. One was in New Hampshire, who mailed their bid overnight but whose offer was turned down due to their risky accountability. The other vendor was the Vending Machine Company, also known as VMC. The VMC guaranteed a bank of microwaves, good prices and great tasting food.

Then Dr. Shanks stated that a test of food was done, involving Liz Clark, Di-

rector of Student Activities, as well as all the heads of student government. There were a total of about 16 people who tested the food and said it was great. And so the VMC was given a 6 month contract to try out so that students may give the new change a chance. With this contract Shanks said that the VMC guaranteed that their products are bought from other local vendors who are from different restaurants. The VMC also takes into consideration any suggestions as far as the choice of food students would like to eat. It was also stated that VMC drivers come every day with fresh food and they are to come back if the food is sold out. The new machines should be thought of as Big Refrigerators instead of vending machines.

The cafeteria is now in the 4th building on the second floor. There are a total of 6 vending machines, 2 microwaves, and a few tables and chairs.

## RCC Women's Basketball Team went all the way to the Championship game!

The Roxbury Community College Women's Basketball Team advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) Division III National Tournament with a 64-53 victory over Manchester Community College on February 27. The RCC Lady Tigers then traveled to Rochester, Minnesota, to take part in the eight-team National Tournament March 10-12.

Sophomore Tommia Davis paced Roxbury with 15 points, while captains Sequetta "Butta" Samuels and Jesika Holmes added 13 and 12 points, respectfully.

Roxbury took a 36-26 lead into the locker room at halftime, with Head Coach Mark Leszczyk electing to play a much taller line-up than the traditional small and quick line-ups for which RCC is known.

Freshman forward Tyler Kimball grabbed 14 rebounds for Roxbury while playing tight defense on Manchester's point guard Shenielle Duncan-Clarke – who did not score a field goal in the first half and finished the game with 13 points. Sophomore Erika Sagay led Manchester with 15 points.

"Winning this tournament was the ultimate definition of team effort," said Coach Leszczyk. "These players worked so hard over the entire season to prepare for a game such as this and they truly rose to the occasion. We look forward to representing Region XXI at the National Tournament."

Roxbury, 27-2, finished the regular season ranked third in the NJCAA National Poll. This is the fourth tour-

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## RCC Garden Wins Award

By **Divah Payne**  
*Gazette Staff Reporter*

In July 2010 students in the Honors Colloquium, "The Global Food Crisis," under the direction of Professor Nasreen Latif (Social Sciences/Business) and with the assistance of Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN), established a garden as their service learning project. The goal of the project is to promote locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables and a healthy lifestyle in the Roxbury neighborhood.

The garden will serve as a laboratory space for students participating in a service learning project as an apprentice and will be managed and cultivated by the faculty, staff and student volunteers. There will be a farm stand and farmers' market for the community during the gardening season. Also, the garden committee applied for the Department



of Neighborhood Development Grass-roots program grant for an expansion from eight raised beds to forty raised beds.

On March 26 Professor Latif will accept the Rookie Garden of the Year Award at a gathering at Northeastern University. Mayor Menino will present the award. If you wish to volunteer to work on the garden, please contact Professor Nasreen Latif. We are very proud of our RCC Garden!

## Quechua Poet Visits RCC

By **Prof. Susan Kalt**  
*Language Department*

On Monday, February 28, many students at RCC noticed a man in a colorful woven poncho in the hallways at RCC. Poet Martin Castillo Collado came to Spanish classes that day to be interviewed by students in Spanish. Although he is an award-winning writer in Spanish, Castillo's first language is Quechua, the language of the Inca em-

pire that spanned South America from Colombia to Argentina in the early sixteenth century.

A number of students in Spanish 1 wrote essays based on their interviews. This is what some of them had to say:

"He made me get interested in the Quechuan language...I learnt to say hello which is Imaynalla kachkanki, and goodbye which is Tinkunakama." Sharé-Leigh Arneaud-Bernard

"One thing that I found to be very in-

teresting was the fact that when I asked him who his idol was he said 'nature.' My goal in life has always been to play pro ball, so growing up I have always had many basketball idols, so when he said that I was very shocked." Michael Campbell

"Between ..the slideshow and Martin Castillo's visit I felt the ambience of being in Peru and it definitely was encouraging." Betty Sanders

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## News from the STEM Division

Dr. Kyriss Rodriguez, Interim Dean of the STEM Division (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), made the following announcement to the college on February 25, 2011:

The STEM Division is proud to announce that the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center's Board of Directors voted yesterday to award a \$250,000.00 Equipment and Supplies Grant to RCC to further STEM education. We want to highlight all the hard work of Kimberly Stieglitz, Kristin Laird, Stacey Olson and Maria Carles. They put a lot of extra hours, weekends, and evenings working on the application before it was sent out. Special thanks to Janet Nolan and Heidi Stump, from the Capital Campaign Office, for all their help and support.

This is an amazing opportunity for

the college and for our students who will benefit from state-of-the art labs. Our STEM Division has been a leader in the city for its Biotechnology Program and the support and recognition that it has gotten from Boston hospitals.

Those students who have successfully completed one semester of Biology and one semester of Chemistry are urged to see Professor Kimberly Stieglitz in the Science Department to find out about internship opportunities at MIT's Center for Material Sciences and Engineering or at Pro-Start at BU. In addition to the hands-on experience with experts, students who are accepted into these programs will be well-compensated at approximately \$4,000 for the 8-week internship.

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# FROM POETRY TO HIP HOP

The Relationship Between Music & African American Literature

Meet **Dr. Emmett G. Price III**

**April 13, 2011 | Room 121**  
**12:30-2:20 p.m. | Academic Building (3)**

In celebration of National Poetry Month, Dr. Emmett G. Price III, Chair of the Department of African American Studies at Northeastern University, will trace the interplay between music and African American Literature beginning with the writings of The Harlem Renaissance, The Black Arts Movement, and today's Hip Hop Culture. Following the lecture, join us at 1:30 p.m. for a:

- Reception
- Presentation of the Honors Program
- More in-depth discussions with Dr. Price

For more information, please contact Prof. Rhonda Gray at rgray@rcc.mass.edu or Prof. David Updike at dupdike@rcc.mass.edu

# Students Weigh in on New Cafeteria

By **Janet Villafane**  
*Gazette Staff Reporter*

I asked a few students what were their overall views about the new cafeteria. Here are some responses. From a scale 1-10, two students rated it above 5 and one of the students said, “I think it’s great!” The other six students rated it below 5. From those students one said, “It gets a 1 because it’s better than nothing.” While this rating was just to get a quick idea about their overall view, students had much more to say than just a number.

Three nursing students questioned the healthiness of the food. They stated that health and academics go hand in hand. If unhealthy food is being provided, it encourages students to develop or continue bad eating habits, which has negative affects in their academics. Students from The College Experience class were very disappointed when they saw that the cafeteria was just vending machines. They compared RCC’s cafeteria with Bunker Hill’s and said they may consider transferring. The cafeteria is a place where the students get a chance to socialize with one another about their academics. It’s where they go for their breaks, to eat and catch up on work. It’s also where you meet other students from around the school and get advice

or opinions on what classes to take and what teachers other students recommend. Students say that that opportunity was stolen from them.

Other students from around the school stated that they felt offended when they saw the school cafeteria. They felt as if the reason this decision was approved was because the school is full of minorities. Students expressed related feelings and concerns and wondered if it’s because the school is in Roxbury that they are being treated less and receiving less.

When asked about the email they received about the Grand Opening, students felt as if they were highly misled. They said that the pictures and the advertising of rice and beans, soups, French toast, etc. was not at all what they had imagined. They said that the email forgot to mention that it was all going to be provided by vending machines. Not once in the email did it say anything about vending machines. It was a misleading and false advertisement.

Overall the students thought that the vending machines themselves were not bad if they were in the hallway. However, to be the cafeteria is disturbing. When I asked the students what they wanted to see in the cafeteria, students responded “REAL PEOPLE SERVING REAL FOOD!”

# News from the Division of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

On March 31, about 16 faculty from every division got together to discuss the article “What is metacognition?” and how it applies to the classroom. Then, they heard a presentation from Tua Nefer as she explained what she is doing to support her students’ reading in English Composition II. This luncheon/workshop was part of a professional development project that Professor Ruth Kiefson has spearheaded this year in which she trains professors in any discipline to support their students’ reading of texts in their discipline. Based on a pedagogical framework called Reading Apprenticeship, the workshops help faculty to become aware of their own reading process in order to demystify for their students the strategies, skills, and habits of mind necessary to become expert readers in that discipline.

**Professor Carol Liebman**, Chair of the Criminal Justice Department, announces that the Criminal Justice Program is sponsoring a special Speed-Networking event tomorrow (April 7, 2011) in connection with our participation in the Massachusetts Bar Association’s Tiered Community Mentoring Program. The Governor’s Chief Legal Counsel, Mo Cowan, and the Massachusetts Commissioner of Revenue, Navjeet Bal are the principal speakers. Last week, students from the Program attended several events including an

event sponsored by the Mass. Women’s Bar Association honoring recently appointed women of color to the bench. The attending students had an opportunity to meet the honorees and the Governor. They also attended an event sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys where they heard from virtually all of the presently sitting Hispanic judges and a mock trial event at Faneuil Hall.

Several students from the Criminal Justice Program are now serving as special interns at the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department at the invitation of Sheriff Cabral. In addition, RCC CJ students have been invited to shadow judges, lawyers and probation officers as part of a new “Shadow” Program we are now implementing.

**Professor Rhonda Gray**, Coordinator of the Honors Program, announces the following events:

**April 13, 12:30-2:20 p.m.**, room 121, Building #3—*From Poetry to Hip Hop: The Relationship Between Music & African American Literature* (see ad for detail)

**April 28, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.**, Cafeteria—*RCC Garden Celebration!*

The Garden Service Learning Project highlights its green initiatives by featuring a panel discussion and a presentation of the garden, a guided

garden tour, and more. Please join the celebration and help make Roxbury a greener, healthier, and stronger community. RSVP by April 15 to Nasreen Latif at nlatif@rcc.mass.edu.

**May 6, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**, room 121, Academic Building—Honors Presentations Day

Students pursuing honors projects in their classes present their work to the College.

For further information, please contact Prof. Rhonda Gray, Honors Committee Coordinator, at rgray@rcc.mass.edu

**Prof. David Updike**, Interim Chair of the English Department, received a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant. This is for the Summer 2011 Landmarks for American History and Culture Workshop for Community College Faculty entitled, “African-American History and Culture in the Georgia Lowcountry: Savannah and the Coastal Islands, 1750 - 1950”. This workshop is presented by the Georgia Historical Society (GHS) and will take place in Savannah, Georgia during the week of June 12-18, 2011. We know that this important opportunity will further the content of courses within our African American Studies major.

**YOUR Opinion DOES Matter**

**YES NO**

# GATEWAY GAZETTE

A publication of staff and students at  
Roxbury Community College  
1234 Columbus Avenue, Roxbury Crossing, Massachusetts 02120

Staff and students are invited to send letters to the editor, news tips, ideas for articles and photos and other information for the Gazette to [writingcenter@roxbury.edu](mailto:writingcenter@roxbury.edu). All submissions are subject to editing and run on a space available basis. The opinions expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

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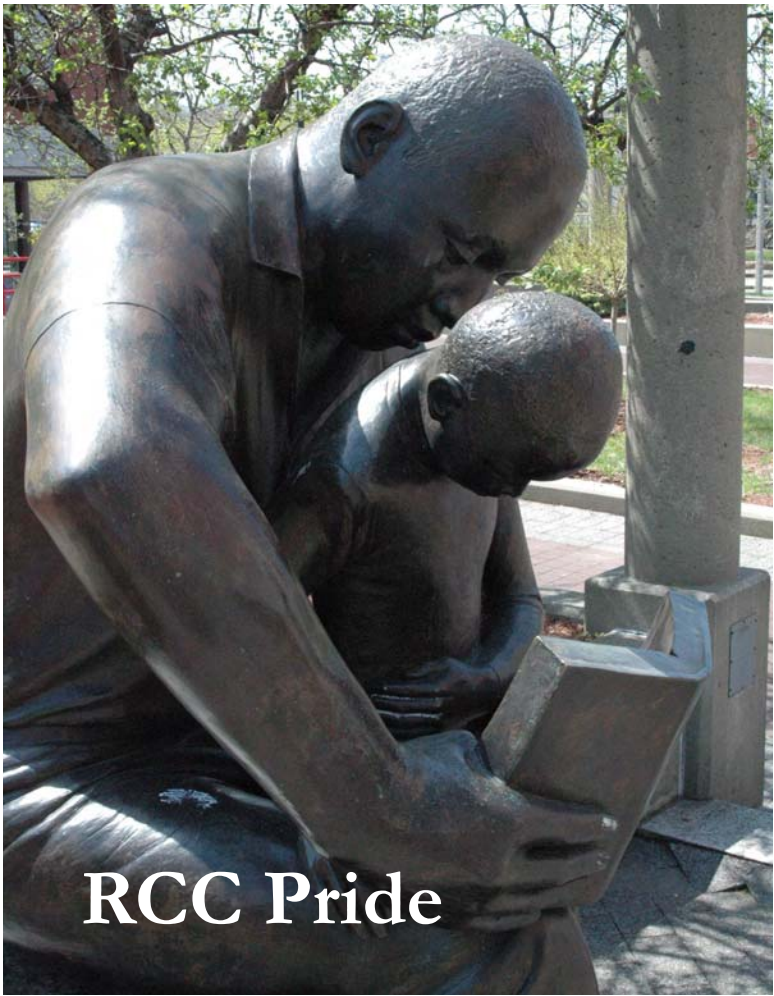
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\*December 2009 survey by Payscale.com



## OPINIONS



# Do you have Pride?

By **Morgan Wright**  
*SGA*

Having pride is a fickle thing. Some believe they do, but can't even explain how or what it means to truly have pride. In order to have pride, a person must know where they've been, where they are, and where they're going. Not just in a physical sense but also and more importantly in a mental capacity. Those are the things that comprise who a person is. How can a person have pride, real pride, and not have intimate knowledge of the things that make themselves; if they don't in essence know who they truly are and what they represent.

As RCC students we are all representatives of our school. But how many of us know what we represent? How many of us know the history of these hallowed halls? How many of us know the struggles of those that came before us and what they had to persevere so that we could be in class furthering our education? Many of us take our school for granted and complain about the things we don't like about it, but how many of us are doing something to improve the

place where we learn? How many of us have taken pride in our work and in our school?

SGA is holding an Essay contest to promote pride and learning in our school. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. The winning essay will be published in The Gazette. What we are looking for is an essay that digs into RCC's past and tells the history of the school from its inception and what it means and should mean to be a part of that. We are all a part of the legacy of RCC. Each student should take it upon themselves to find out what that legacy is. Learn about the school you represent and the school that represents you. Have pride! More details about the contest will be advertised in weeks to come, such as the deadline to have essays turned in and the prizes that will be awarded. Be creative and use the resources available to you. Some of the professors here were among the first to teach at RCC when the doors opened. Interview them. Find out from a first-hand source what it was like in the beginning. Come on, Tigers, stand tall and let me hear you roar!



The Gateway Gazette is the official publication of the student body of Roxbury Community College. Submissions from the college community are welcome. All submissions are subject to editing. Opinions stated within the paper are not necessarily endorsed by the newspaper staff.

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## Professor Updike Speaks Out about New Cafeteria: More, Better Food

By **Professor David Updike**  
*English Department*

It is 11:30 in the morning, and I am hungry. What to eat, and where to get it—a daily conundrum here at RCC. AK's is gone, and I don't like pizza, anyway. I have tried the vending machines in the reclaimed cafeteria, and though the sandwich was not terrible, there is something demoralizing about buying food from a machine. After all, who made it? And where? How long ago? One wants to see the person who made the food, or at least, who is serving it to you.

Once upon a time, RCC had such a place—a cafeteria: they had sandwiches, hamburgers, eggs, salads, soup, full meals. Sometimes the vendors changed; sometimes they got better, or worse: but people went there, lined up, were served, sat down and ate and talked to each other all in one big room. Sometimes there were events in the cafeteria afterwards, and people would stay and participate. Now, we have vending machines, and my guess is we are the only one of the fifteen Community Colleges in the State without food served to us by other human beings. On my way here every morning, I pass no fewer than eight colleges or Universities, and I am quite sure they all have cafeterias.

In the December issue of this paper, Professor Sergia Hay wrote an excellent article, "RCC is a Food Desert", a term defined by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as "areas that lack access to affordable fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low fat milk, and other foods that make up the full range of a healthy diet." I think we qualify. The surrounding neighborhood also lacks much else: Mississippi's is gone, and the few neighboring restaurants have erratic quality and quantity, at variable prices. Then there is AK's or Dominos, if you miss your Pizza.

I am not very good, as some of my colleagues are, at packing healthy, sprout-y lunches, or tidy sandwiches, and bringing them to school. Besides, I don't want to: I want to go to a warm and friendly place, order food and eat it

in the company of other people. And if I invite a speaker or friend to come visit out college, I might like to buy them lunch—on campus. Instead, I am now surviving on Ramen Noodles I buy at Fuentes Market on Mission Hill and eat, alone, in my office: low on cost, and high on sodium. My doctor would not approve.

We have been given many explanations for our food desert and vending machines: the census bureau came, and gave us lots of money; but dismantled the kitchen, and never put it back together again. The last vendor left because no one could make a profit there; only two vendors bid on the current contract. (Because there is no kitchen, I wonder?)

How can you expect students to study and learn; faculty, administrators and staff to work for eight and more hours a day, with no real food to offer them? How do you expect evening students to arrive here after work, and have very little to get them through the next three hours of class?

Ironically, the main mission of Michelle Obama, America's First Lady, is to improve the diets and eating habits of young Americans, especially children. RCC is doing the exact opposite, offering little or nothing to reverse these national trends of obesity and ill health. Rather, we should be on the forefront of her initiative. I doubt that anyone here would like to invite Mrs. Obama and her husband to dine in our cafeteria.

Here at the college we have spent hundreds of hours in meetings discussing ways to improve education, spent many thousands of dollars on hired consultants, and received many more thousands of dollars from a Federal initiative designed to help improve learning and retention at community colleges, aptly named, Achieving the Dream-- all good and valuable pursuits. I have a simpler suggestion. Offer our students (and the rest of us) better food--of a higher quality and greater variety—and students will stay, and learn. In the meantime, it's hard to dream on an empty stomach.



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# JOIN US FOR A BETTER FUTURE.



# Successful Students Need Successful Professors

By **Joshua Caldwell**  
*Gazette Reporter*

We all know the characteristics that make up what would be considered a successful student. They study the material, show up to class, take notes, etc. However, that is only half the story. Success in school falls on two parties. The first, and majority of the responsibility, falls on the students. The rest falls in the hands of the people who facilitate our learning, our professors. What makes a good professor? Students pay hundreds of dollars to be instructed in a plethora of subjects and we should expect the best for our money. So what makes a professor successful?

I ventured out to the halls of RCC to ask the students what they thought

and it seems the overwhelming majority wanted their professor to be "understanding". Ruth Jeannite and Shaka McPherson both expressed they wanted a professor "that is understanding, organized, and passionate," and it would appear that the majority agree.

Another huge characteristic is passion. Everyone has experienced the dreaded "bad professor" who seems to be bored with his own material. How can students hope to learn and be interested if the person teaching them is not interested? One student went on to name her favorite professor as none other than Professor Updike.

Professor Updike, an English Professor who has been teaching here for many years, seems to have found his stride as a successful professor. His view

is not much different than that of the students that I interviewed. "It's important to like your students first of all. I like teaching at RCC, even with a degree from Harvard, because of the diversity and the opportunity to teach other cultures. If you don't like your students and you don't like your job, it comes out very negatively," said Professor Updike when asked what made him a successful professor in the eyes of the students.

It is crucial to have an engaging professor for any material, someone who can make learning fun and easy for the students to understand. It is imperative for the success of the student and likewise for the success of the teachers themselves.





Quechua Poet...

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“He has been writing since he was 11 years old. He has this passion for poetry, and it’s almost as if you can feel it. I am a poet myself so that was something I appreciated...I would enjoy traveling to another country and being able to speak the language of that country more as a life experience.” Maxwell Opara

“It felt great to interview him in Spanish. Not only did I understand what he was talking about, he was using expressions while we had a conversation with him. His experiences remind me of my own because my mom and dad grew up in Cabo Verde.” Arlene Monteiro

“Speaking with him has prompted me to learn about the history of his country, the possibilities of spending time in a Spanish speaking country and ultimately taking my dream vacation to Peru.” Dianette Keith

Martin Castillo addressed the faculty and professional staff in a special lunchtime event. He presented Vice President Brenda Mercomes with a woven shawl full of indigenous symbols in gratitude for the college’s support of a literacy and curriculum development project that he and RCC Professor Susan Kalt carried out in Peru last summer with funds from the Foundation for Endangered Languages in London. Castillo claimed that literacy is a two-edged sword for a minority community that is trying to hold on to its oral traditions. Quechua poetry is mostly sung, and he sang a haunting

yaravi that derives from a melody from his hometown in Apurimac.

Professor Johanna Jacobson presented Castillo with a copy of Roxbury Speaks, a literary magazine from the poets and writers at RCC.

Rosa Dixon, another student from Spanish 1, said, “I liked how he answered when I asked him what are his future goals and he said just to have his language, Quechuan, taught around the world.” Martin is realizing that dream this year as he has been hired to teach Quechua language and culture in the Latin American Studies program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

After his visit to RCC, Martin Castillo and Susan Kalt spent time working on editing film footage they captured in a rural school last summer while piloting a curriculum kit for hands-on inquiry in children’s native language. They visited the Boston Children’s Museum curriculum kit workshop, the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Northampton, and spoke for two days in the Linguistics Department at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. A highlight of that part of the trip was making a connection with Native American students at U Mass.

Martin Castillo thanked Alice Zhang of RCC’s IT department for helping post web materials he and Professor Kalt have developed to help educators and families promote the use of their own native languages in the classroom. For more information about the project, see [http://www.rcc.mass.edu/language/faculty/Sue\\_Kalt/projects.asp](http://www.rcc.mass.edu/language/faculty/Sue_Kalt/projects.asp)

RCC Women’s Basketball...

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nament title for the Tigers this season; the team was also victorious at the RCC Invitational Tournament, the Passaic County Tournament, and the Massachusetts Community College Athletic Conference (MCCAC) Tournament.

The Lady Tigers defeated Quinsigamond Community College, 78-50, in the Regional Semi-Final match-up on Saturday afternoon to advance to Sunday’s final.

For those of you who were unable to follow the NJCAA National Tournament for Division III Women’s Basketball, I want to let you know that Region-

al XXI was well represented at the National Tournament. Roxbury CC went all the way to the Championship game! In the final game of the tournament, Roxbury lost to Anoka Ramsey, 60-55 in a game that could have gone either way. In their 2 previous games, Roxbury defeated Suffolk CC, 58-43 and Northland, 72-58 to qualify for Championship Game. Being able to follow the teams through the live stream on the web was fantastic!

Jesica Holmes and Sequetta Samuels were honored on the All Tournament team. What an outstanding accomplishment! Congratulations to Roxbury CC for coming in second at the NJCAA National Tournament!

Student Interviews Martin Castillo

By Davide Palumbo  
Staff Reporter

Last Monday, we received the visit of Martin Castillo and, even if our Spanish vocabulary was extremely limited, we had an interesting conversation with him. By speaking to him and thanks to the support of films we saw in class, we had the chance to see how people from different places around the world can be so different from each other. Martin Castillo is from Cuzco, in Peru, where he lives with all his family. Even if Martin speaks Spanish, Quechua is his mother language, and in fact half of the people who live in Peru are Quechua, which is basically the language of many ethnic groups in South America. Most of those groups are in Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia. Quechua speakers can be considered as the descendents of the Inca, who created the largest empire in pre-Columbian America.

It was interesting to see how Quechua people live in houses that do not offer so many comforts. The houses are built of stone and roofed with grass or tiles. The furniture is very limited. The most important room seems to be the kitchen. In my culture, the kitchen is also one of the most important rooms of the house were most of the living is actually done. Unlike us though, Quechua people cook the food on wood stove, whose smoke goes out through the chimney. In some case though, the house does not have any chimney, and the smoke does not have any way out, causing a blackening of the ceiling, besides also being very dangerous for human health.

Quechua people are very proud of their background and most of them still wear the old manner and clothing of their ancestor, including our guest. Religiously speaking, they believe that supernatural forces govern everyday events, such as weather and illness, also

that everything in nature, like the mountains, has a spirit. The religion is one of the aspects I would like to know more about, because it is incredible to me how they have maintained the original beliefs, considering the diffusion, sometimes forced, of the Christian religion. Also, I would love to know more even about the famous Nazca lines, which are huge geoglyphs drew on the surface of the Nazca Desert in southern Peru, and usually representing animals like monkeys, spiders or birds. Because of their giant size, they are actually watchable only from the sky. The theories about the purpose of those figures are many, and there are even people who see in those drawing some kind of link with extra-terrestrial form of life. In conclusion, Quechua life style is for sure unusual for most of us, mostly considering the modernity we have custom to live with, but if we pay more attention the cultural differences are not so many.



Welcome to the Poetry Pages of The Gateway Gazette. This is your paper and we are looking for your submissions. We are interested in all your original work: emotional, edgy, raps, etc. Please submit poems to me at [czharris@roxbury.edu](mailto:czharris@roxbury.edu). If we need to edit because of space, we will let you know.

Chenae Harris, Poetry Editor

POET’S CORNER

Language of My Soul

By Janet Villafane  
RCC Student and Gazette Reporter

Writing is the language of the soul.  
Well my soul my soul anyhow...  
I do know each one us has our unique instruments in life.  
Mine is writing.  
When I write it’s like virus spreading from my soul into my heart  
From my heart into my mind  
From my mind into how I speak, how I speak to how I view things,  
How I view things into how I perceive people - to how people perceive me.  
There is something so real that happens when I write,  
My persona is like a light to others,  
They like the way I speak - It is described best as wise.  
When I write it’s like the language of my soul  
Letting people know who I truly am in this world.

My soul truly speaks a language called writing.  
I am not myself without a pen and paper in hand.  
Without my soul consistently speaking its native language,  
My soul is lost, forgotten of all it has the potential to be.  
When I stop writing...  
Motivation stops, positive attitudes stops, understanding people stops.  
Without writing I myself see myself to be nothing but a lost soul

The Seasons

By Kendra Enabaro  
RCC student

As the leaves turn color,  
The cold air comes in,  
Sends shivers through my spine,  
The leaves turn to the color of wine,  
Once the trees are bare,  
The first snow flake falls,  
As it caresses the streets,  
Covering them ever so slowly,  
With a soft, fluffy blanket of love,  
Then it overwhelms,  
Causing issues, everyone wanting it done,  
When the weather starts to warm,  
The trees start to bloom,  
As the wind blows,  
Takes all your shivers and warms your soul,  
Knowing that summer will once be,  
Warm weather and peacefulness,  
Until that leave turns red,  
Then the cycle never ends.

Burr

By Kendra Enabaro  
RCC student

Burr;  
Snow and more snow,  
Black ice, sliding and falling,  
Spending time with family,  
Celebrating the New Year,  
Snow and more snow,  
Burr;  
Snow and more snow,  
Cars sliding and gliding,  
Enjoying the holiday season,  
Watching your team make it to the super bowl,  
Enjoying your Valentine’s Day sweetheart.  
Snow and more snow,  
Burr;  
Watching your team destroy your hopes,  
Watching the snow pile up,  
Snow and more snow,  
When will it stop?



The Gateway Gazette regrets the inadvertent omission of this important article by Dr. Alane Shanks, Vice President of Business and Finance. We strongly believe in balanced reporting. Please read the article below to gain an historical perspective of our school cafeteria.

# VP Shanks Defends Choice and Provides History of Cafeteria RCC Cafeteria – A Five Year History

By **Dr. Alane K. Shanks**  
*Vice President, Administration and Finance*

I have heard from a number of students, faculty and administrators about the new cafeteria vendor. I thought it might be useful to provide a little background so that Gateway readers may see the food on campus situation from a broader perspective.

When I began my role as Vice President for Administration and Finance at Roxbury Community College in January of 2006, Family Affair Catering was the vendor under contract to provide food service in the cafeteria located on the 2nd Floor of the Student Center. The cafeteria was open for breakfast and lunch and would close about 2:30 every day, so evening students did not have any food options on campus. Their contract was up for re-bid in June of 2006, although there was an option for a one year extension. I extended their contract for one more year; I alerted the owners that I was going to put the food service contract out to bid in the Spring of the following year.

At the end of March, 2007, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted on the State Comm-Pass website and was sent to vendors who had expressed an interest in providing food service on the campus. Family Affair and City Fresh Foods were the two vendors who submitted bids. A committee of faculty, staff and students was formed to review the bids and attend a food tasting. City Fresh was the unanimous choice. Facilities did a major cleaning and some renovation of the cafeteria over the summer and City Fresh began providing food service in the 2nd Floor of the Student

Center in the Fall of 2007. The cafeteria was open for breakfast and lunch and would close about 2:30 every day.

They were not given exclusive catering rights but were the caterer of choice and received high marks for their catering and their cafeteria food offerings. However, by the end of the Fall semester, the owners were concerned about how much staff they needed to manage the cafeteria and that they were not taking in enough revenue to cover their expenses. They felt the catering was subsidizing the food service, but that they were still not able to break even.

The Spring semester was worse in terms of revenue in both the food service and the catering. They had to trim the menu selection, in large part because very few were purchasing items over a \$3-\$4 price point. The owners decided they could not afford to be at RCC for the summer session. The College subsidized their serving costs so that there was food service for Summer Session I. City Fresh returned in the Fall of 2008 with a much more limited menu. The owners came to see me soon after the semester began and said they would not stay for the entire year unless the College subsidized their costs at a level that was not feasible for the College. The agreement had a requirement that they give 90 days' notice which kept City Fresh on campus providing food service through the end of the semester.

At the end of November, a food service RFP was posted on the State Comm-Pass website and was sent to vendors who had expressed an interest in providing food service on the campus. We received one bid, from AKs Kitchen, Inc. I negotiated a contract

with AKs and they began service in the 2nd Floor of the Student Center in time for Spring Semester 2009. The cafeteria was open for breakfast and lunch and would close about 2:30 every day. They were not given exclusive catering rights and, although the community gave them a chance, were soon NOT the caterer of choice for most college events. That same spring, we were approached by the US Census Bureau, asking if they could rent space on campus to conduct the 2010 Census in our area. The Cafeteria space, on the 2nd Floor of the Student Center, was the most appropriate to meet their needs. The Census Bureau's rental fee allowed us to off-set some of the painful cuts the State made to the public higher education budgets in 2009. The Census Bureau also provided us with construction funds which allowed us to build a new kitchen and dining space in the Academic Building and put aside funds to restore the Student Center Cafeteria.

AKs moved to the Academic Building in the Fall of 2009 as the Census Bureau assumed occupancy of the 2nd Floor of the Student Center in July of 2009. AKs lost a good deal of money during the Spring of 2009, but was hopeful, with the smaller space in the Academic Building, that he could manage the operation with fewer staff than he had to employ in the 2nd Floor of the Student Center space. Even with the reduced staffing, the owner was not able to turn a profit. He told me that most students spent between \$3 and \$4 at most and for that he could sell a slice of pizza and a drink, but wraps were beyond the price point for most students. I received a number of complaints



Old Cafeteria

about the limited menu. The owner tried to make it work for the Spring and into the Fall of 2010, but by early November, we agreed, given the complaints I was hearing from students and faculty, and the financial strain he was experiencing, that he would stay through the end of the semester and our agreement would be over.

In December of 2010, a Food Service RFP was again posted on Comm-Pass. I also solicited names of local vendors from members of the RCC community, and I sent the RFPs out to a number of local food establishments. Two bids were received, one from a New Hampshire based firm and the other from the Vending Machine Companies (VMC). The New Hampshire based firm required College subsidy for a very limited menu and constricted hours of service. The VMC proposal was an offer to provide fresh, low-cost food whenever the College was open, an option that allowed, for the first time, food service at a price point our community could afford, for everyone on campus, including our early morning and evening students, faculty and staff. The Cabinet approved having a tasting for students, faculty and staff to be provided by VMC. The tasting took place on January 18, 2011 with all the SGA officers, many other students, faculty and staff tasting the breakfast, lunch and dinner offerings that would be made available through the vending machines. The response to the food was very positive and we agreed to give VMC a try.

In January 2011, the 2nd Floor of the Student Center was reconfigured as a café, just as the President promised it would be if students preferred the Student Center dining to that provided in the Academic Building. The vending machines were installed on February 5, 2011 with VMC providing five brand new vending machines, including one with selections such as pancakes, French toast, fresh fruit, green salads, lasagna, grilled chicken wraps, mac and cheese; VMC also provided two microwaves to heat up the food.

In order to encourage people to come to the Student Center to try the food, VMC provided free coffee and donuts the first week, and, during the second week, two days of two-hour lunchtime tasting of many of the vending machine offerings. People who try the food, have, for the most part, said they've liked it. They like the price, the freshness, and the people who are on campus early in the morning and in the evening, in particular, have expressed enthusiasm for the convenience and availability of hot food on campus.

The VMC owners stayed on site for the first two weeks after we opened in the Student Center to answer people's questions and to find out what people wanted to have on offer in the machines. VMC has a regular delivery service now and, although there have been a few kinks in delivery, overall the machines on the 2nd Floor of the Student Cafeteria are stocked and ready for a hungry student, faculty or staff member any time of the day or evening. There is a phone number on the machines that customers can call with a suggestion about what might be a good addition to the array of selections and a suggestion box will be put up soon as well. If the machine malfunctions and takes a customer's money, without giving you your food selection, the customer should go to the Security Desk as the VMC owner has provided petty cash from the vendor to refund the loss.

I appreciate that it is hard to get used to the idea of purchasing food out of a vending machine, but please remember that the food you are buying is prepared that same day, such as a green salad, steak and cheese, fresh fruit, tuna wrap, or egg salad sandwich and it is almost ½ the cost it would be if the vendor was paying a server to hand the food to you. This service is also providing more variety than the previous vendors, in the five years I've been here, were able to regularly provide. Please give the new cafeteria a try!

# Media Arts Center Highlights Local Talent

By **Judy Kahalas**  
*Editor*

The Media Arts Center was the perfect backdrop for the annual Gateway Award Ceremony that was held at the college on April 6. This year Marshall Hughes, Director of the Media Arts Center, served as the host and Master of Ceremonies and presented awards to distinguished citizens of Greater Boston who have made significant contributions to our city.

The evening began with a reception in the President's Room on the third floor, with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. It then moved to Mainstage with a showcase of young talent from the after-school string program, Boston Youth Symphony Players, that RCC sponsors: 8-year-old violin prodigy Hana Chang began the evening followed by two young performers, Jewel Zimbabwe and Tiara Camp, who resurrected their roles from A Midsummer Night's Dream, staged by the Roxbury Reper-



Left to right: Mr. Michael Maso, Ms. Musau M. Dibinga, Mr. Melvin B. Miller, Dr. Terrence A. Gomes, and Dr. Katherine Sloan - Photo by Pamela Green

tory Theater. The other young talents were Genevieve Lefevre who played the viola, Cyan Jean played the cello and Yan Prophete played bass. Then OriginNation's, NIA Dance Troupe, performed an original dance piece, Unbreakable, choreographed by Muadi B. Dibinga.

Finally, Mr. Hughes presented awards to community leaders: Musau M. Dibinga, the managing director of OriginNation Cultural Arts Center and president of M3D Agency, Inc.; Michael Maso,

the managing director of the Huntington Theatre who brought playwright, August Wilson to RCC Mainstage; Melvin B. Miller, the founder of The Bay State Banner; and Dr. Katherine Sloan, president of Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

The evening highlighted the legacy that our award recipients have passed on to a new generation of talented Bostonian.

ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
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ROXBURY CROSSING, MA 02120

## 6 PLAYWRIGHTS IN SEARCH OF A STAGE

SPECIAL FEATURE: "THE END OF THEATRE"  
BY 2011 RRT PLAYWRIGHT LAUREATE  
MICHELLE GABOW

PLAYWRIGHTS:  
CLIFF BLAKE  
JOE BYERS  
CON CHAPMAN  
SUSAN LEONARD  
REBECCA SAUNDERS  
GEORGE SMART

DIRECTORS:  
MICHELLE BAXTER / MARSHALL HUGHES / CAITLIN STEWART-SWIFT

CONTACT:  
PGREEN@RCC.MASS.EDU  
PH. (617) 541-5380

## 6 PLAYWRIGHTS IN SEARCH OF A STAGE

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN:  
Roxbury Community College &  
Massachusetts College of Art and Design  
Center for Art and Community Partnerships  
Department of Liberal Arts

ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MAINSTAGE  
APRIL 29TH & 30TH, 7PM

FREE ADMISSION

## Join us at Roxbury Community College's Spring 2011 OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 23, 2011 \* 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

**Location: Multipurpose Room, Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center**  
1350 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02120 (Corner of Tremont and Malcolm X Boulevard. Across from Roxbury Crossing T stop on the Orange Line. Free Parking in the Student Parking Lot.)

- \* Learn about our Associate Degree and Certificate Programs.
- \* Meet faculty and staff and learn about Admissions and Financial Aid.

- ♦ Light Refreshments
- ♦ Door Prizes
- ♦ Tours and more!



For more information, please contact:  
**Gloria Castro**  
Senior Admissions Counselor  
Roxbury Community College  
1234 Columbus Avenue  
Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120  
(617) 427-0060 ext. 5413